

7-28-05

538,640

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/DE2003/003926



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2002P13619WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/DE2003/003926	International filing date (day/month/year) 25 November 2003 (25.11.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 13 December 2002 (13.12.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01H 71/08		
Applicant SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 10 June 2004 (10.06.2004)	Date of completion of this report 13 May 2005 (13.05.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DE2003/003926

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

the international application as originally filed

the description:

pages _____ 1-6 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

the claims:

pages _____ _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ 1-6 _____, filed with the letter of 25 January 2005 (25.01.2005)

the drawings:

pages _____ 1/4-4/4 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following document:

D3: US-A-3 343 042 (RICCI LOUIS N ET AL)
19 September 1967 (1967-09-19).

Document D3 is considered to be the closest prior art for the subject matter of claim 1. D3 discloses (the references in parentheses are to D3):

low-voltage circuit breaker (3) comprising a first contact arrangement (189) for connecting a fixed contact (21) to a first busbar (214) and a second contact arrangement (189) for connecting a counter contact (27), arranged on a contact lever (29), to a second busbar (214), the busbars having at least one contact area (figure 17) by means of which the busbars can be arranged permanently on a module frame (219) of the low-voltage circuit breaker in order to embody the low-voltage circuit breaker as a modular breaker.

The subject matter of claim 1 differs therefore from the known low-voltage circuit breaker in that the busbars have at least one receiving area for holding means by means of which the busbars can be arranged permanently on the outside of the low-voltage circuit breaker in order to embody the low-voltage circuit breaker as a fixed breaker.

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The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The problem addressed by the present invention can therefore be considered that of obtaining a low-voltage circuit breaker which can be converted from a fixed circuit breaker to a modular circuit breaker with minimal expenditure of material and effort.

The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons:

There is no hint of this solution to be found in the available prior art.

Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.